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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [IZ](#) [BAGHDAD](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQI GOVERNMENT, CONSTITUTION, ELECTIONS, DOMESTIC POLITICAL DISPUTES, ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE; BAGHDAD

SUMMARY: Discussion on the Constitution, Elections, Domestic Political Disputes, and Israeli Intelligence were the major editorial themes of the daily newspapers on October 5, 2005. END SUMMARY.

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES  
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[1A](#). "Calls Versus Calls"  
(Al-Bayyan, affiliated with the Islamic Ad-Dawa Party led by Al-Ja'afari, published this page-three editorial by Zainab Al-Khafaji)

"President Talabani's strange call for Prime Minister Ibrahim Al-Ja'afari to resign must be totally rejected because President Talabani, in a protocol position of president of the republic, has no right to ask any government official to resign due to a political disagreement or even internal issues. It is unwise for Iraqi decision makers to issue such calls that may complicate the relationship between the government's various political parties.

"For this reason, I call on President Jalal Talabani to stop making such irresponsible statements and accusations of the Prime Minister and his role in ruling the country. In addition, this is a negative point that reflects poorly on the president as he tries to remove those who disagree with him in the execution of their authority. Moreover, Talabani's call only serves to provoke new disagreements in Iraq.

"I call on President Talabani to be committed to the principles of his presidential authority and not make use of it to issue statements that are unrelated to his position. President Talabani must realize that it is not wise to make bombastic statements--he must step away from the political conflicts that will complicate and damage the political process."

[1B](#). "The Democratic Scene Between Talabani and Al-Ja'afari"  
(Al-Ittihad, affiliated with the PUK, published this page-three editorial by Abdul Hadi Mahdi)

"Democracy today has become a popular word throughout the Iraqi community, especially since it was previously forbidden. Democracy does not equate to laws and administrative orders but is personified by the behavior of citizens. Unfortunately, it seems that we have a new kind of democracy in Iraq today; one comprised of groups of people who call for establishing democracy without knowing what it means.

"President Talabani told media outlets that Dr. Al-Ja'afari makes decisions unilaterally which means that he does not report to others when making decisions. The TAL [Transitional Administrative Law] is the only political/legal document to be used as a basis until the constitution is approved. This was also indicated in the agreement that was signed between the UIA [United Iraqi Alliance] and the Kurdish Coalition on the 8th of April 2005. Both of them have agreed to change the former regime's policies toward Kirkuk and to quickly apply Article 58. However, Al-Ja'afari did not reply to Talabani's letter. President Talabani has the right to freely express his opinion about this issue and at the same time Al-Ja'afari has the right to defend himself in a civilized way. But, we were surprised to see him announce in a press conference that he has no time to reply because he is too busy with

government administration.

"According to analysts, Talabani's statement is not a personal one but it is for the interest of this country. We all know that serving the country is not restricted to a specific figure or sect and this was [explicitly] stated in Article 24 of the TAL. Talabani did not mean to accuse Al-Ja'afari because we all know that they have a strong and long-standing relationship that dates from their opposition to the former regime. But, there are some groups that try to make use of these statements to disunite Iraqis. The current disagreement between Talabani and Al-Ja'afari represents a real expression of democracy which has been absent from this country. In the past, we routinely heard all officials praise the ruler and for this reason, we must not be surprised to hear such disagreements in a new democratic Iraq. Perhaps, this scene is strange for those who have no knowledge about democracy or those who deceive others with their illusionary notions of democracy. Talabani and Al-Ja'afari will continue struggling for the sake of this wounded country."

#### C. "Beware the Flood"

(Al-Zaman, independent, anti coalition published this page-four column by Constitutional Committee member, Dr. Ali Al-Dabagh)

"The current bloodshed and violence in Iraq are aimed at spreading general chaos so that the country will not be stable and secure. It seems that the general situation in Iraq is becoming increasingly aggravated. However, we thought that the Sunni participation in the constitutional committee would make the political process advance smoothly but the Sunnis seem to have a consensus in rejecting the constitution. They have had disagreements about federalism and for this reason we amended that article and decided to leave it for the next National Assembly. Nevertheless, we were surprised to see that in fact they did not care about this issue and decided to reject the constitution as a whole and we have noticed that they have started to mobilize people against the constitution.

"Does harmony mean that the majority responds to the minority's demands? We all want to draft a constitution that guarantees freedoms and rights of individuals. Then, why do they reject such a constitution? Why are they against fighting terrorism which has burned everything in Iraq? Why have we seen some paid demonstrators raise Saddam's portrait? Do those people know that families of Saddam's victims will never accept coexistence with such groups of people?

"We must all reconsider our attitudes for the sake of Iraq's unity. We defended Iraq's unity and we sacrificed ourselves when the British invaded Iraq in 1914 and we do not want to divide this country. We do care about our Sunni brothers and we do not want to cause crises. Wise people must progress and take the lead so that they can prevent the boat from sinking--or else, a flood will come and destroy everything."

#### D. "Search for Israel"

(Al-Fourat, independent, anti coalition, published this back-page editorial by Dawoud Al-Farhan)

"The entire world, except for the Iraqi government and Kurdish politicians, speak about the increased Israeli infiltration in Iraq. Citizens of Baghdad know that the Mossad bought or rented large buildings in the first days of the occupation in the capital. In addition it bought or rented apartments and farms in Baghdad, Basrah, Mosul, Kirkuk and other cities under the cover of companies trying to participate in the reconstruction of Iraq. Or, they claimed to be research centers.

"Many Iraqi officials have announced that they do not mind establishing diplomatic relations between Baghdad and Tel Aviv. Moreover, an Iraqi politician, who is very interested in deba'athification and always condemns the Iraqi resistance, flew to Tel Aviv to normalize Iraqi relations with Israel. The Kurds have sworn that there are no Israelis in the north of Iraq and they said that these are just rumors. However, many Iraqis know that the Israelis have trained the Peshmerga forces during the era of the former regime. Then, after the American invasion the Kurds opened their doors to the Israelis to establish companies in Arbil and Sulaymaniyah. An Egyptian female researcher published a report in Al-Ahram newspaper a few days ago about the Israeli infiltration in the north of Iraq and how they use cover names. The report indicates that there are about 160 Israeli companies in Iraq. In addition, the Green Zone is filled with Israeli intelligence and spies who have American and British nationalities.

"Israel has a role in training U.S. Marines in special techniques used against the Iraqi people, techniques which are similar to those the Israelis employ against the

Palestinians. There is also the well-known Iranian infiltration of the south of Iraq and some sectarian political parties are trying to hide this infiltration. Why is it acceptable for Iran and Israel to interfere in Iraq and it is unacceptable for Zargawi?"

1E. "The Constitution and the Referendum; Between `Yes' and `No'"  
(Al-Taakhi, affiliated with the KDP led by Mas'ood Al-Barazani, published this front-page editorial by Editor-in-Chief, Badirkhan Al-Sindi)

"The constitution represents the fruit of the nation's struggle and it outlines the political philosophy of the state. The constitution represents a collection of fundamental principles that organize government's system for a specified state. Moreover, the constitution determines the government's authority and the ways of distributing and applying authority, individual rights, and duties.

"The constitution guarantees the state is governed by law because it monitors and sets the foundations of the state's law. The constitution establishes legal conditions and methods for choosing a governor and identifying the governor's authorities. Drafting a constitution, for any state, requires, as a first step, established law that governs the general work of the state and limits the authority of the government to prevent corruption and to ensure individual rights. Jurists, scholars, and experts in constitutional rights have pointed out differences between regime principles and the regime as a system. Many states might have similar constitutional principles but each country creates its own system different from others.

"It has been observed that there are democratic countries which choose to be kingdoms, republics, or to elect presidents as executive authorities who appoint the prime minister. Other states follow the parliamentary system in which the prime minister represents the executive authority and selects ministers for the government after gaining approval from the Parliament-it's the president who represents the unity of the country. Democratic states typically get public approval for their draft constitution by holding a public referendum. The Iraqi people will decide their future by saying `yes' or `no' to the draft constitution which was written by the elected representatives of the Iraqi people."

KHALILZAD